

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A modular connection for connecting together a plurality of separate elements so as to form an orthopedic component, said modular connection comprising, in combination, a taper junction and an engaged-fit junction.

2. (Original) A modular connection according to claim 1 wherein said taper junction is formed by the interaction of a first taper with a second taper.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A modular connection according to claim 1 wherein said engaged-fit junction is formed by the interaction of a first concentric wall with a second concentric wall.

5. (Original) A modular connection according to claim 4 wherein said second concentric wall is formed along a portion of a sidewall defining an aperture extending in a first element, and said first concentric wall is formed on a projection of a second element.

6. (Currently Amended) A modular connection according to claim 1 wherein:

said taper junction is formed by the interaction of a first taper with a second taper, with said second taper being formed along a portion of a sidewall defining an aperture in a first element, and said first taper being formed on a projection of a second element; and

said engaged-fit junction is formed by the interaction of a first concentric wall with a second concentric wall, with said second concentric wall being formed along a further portion of a the sidewall defining ~~an~~ the aperture extending in a the first element, and said first concentric wall is formed on a projection of a the second element.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A modular connection according to claim 4 wherein said first concentric wall is located internally of said second concentric wall.

10. (Currently Amended) A modular connection according to claim 9 wherein said first concentric wall is ~~deformed~~ deformable so as to be pressure locked against said second concentric wall.

11. (Currently Amended) A modular connection according to claim 10 wherein said first concentric wall is ~~expanded~~ expandable so as to be pressure locked against said second concentric wall.

12. (Currently Amended) A modular connection according to claim 11 wherein said second concentric wall is formed along a portion of a sidewall defining an aperture in a first element, and said first concentric wall is formed on a projection of a second element, and further wherein said first concentric wall is ~~expanded~~ expandable by insertion of a third element into a recess formed in the second element.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A modular connection according to claim 4 wherein said first concentric wall is ~~contracted~~ expandable so as to be pressure locked against said second concentric wall.

18. (Original) An orthopedic component comprising a first element and a second element, with the first element and the second element being secured to one another with a modular connection, wherein said modular connection comprises, in combination, a taper junction and an engaged-fit junction.

19. (Original) An orthopedic component according to claim 18 wherein said taper junction is formed by the interaction of a first taper with a second taper.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) An orthopedic component according to claim 18 wherein said engaged-fit junction is formed by the interaction of a first concentric wall with a second concentric wall.

22. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic component according to claim 21 wherein said second concentric wall is formed along a portion of ~~the~~ a sidewall defining an aperture extending in said first element, and said first concentric wall is formed on a projection of said second element.

23. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic component according to claim 18 wherein:

said taper junction is formed by ~~the~~ interaction of a first taper with a second taper, said second taper being formed along a portion of a sidewall defining an aperture in said first element, and said first taper being formed on a projection of said second element; and

said engaged-fit junction is formed by the interaction of a first concentric wall with a second concentric wall, with said second concentric wall being formed along a portion of a the sidewall defining the aperture in said first element, and said first concentric wall is formed on a the projection of said second element.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) An orthopedic component according to claim 21 wherein said first concentric wall is located internally of said second concentric wall.

27. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic component according to claim 26 wherein said first concentric wall is ~~deformed~~ deformable so as to be pressure locked against said second concentric wall.

28. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic component according to claim 27 wherein said first concentric wall is ~~expanded~~ expandable so as to be pressure locked against said second concentric wall.

29. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic component according to claim 28 wherein said second concentric wall is formed along a portion of a sidewall defining an aperture in said first element, and said first concentric wall is formed on a projection of said second element, and further wherein said first concentric wall is ~~expanded~~ expandable by insertion of a third element into a recess formed in said second element.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic component according to claim 21 wherein said first concentric wall is ~~contracted~~ expandable so as to be pressure locked against said second concentric wall.